RAVENS SCANS

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CHAPTER 22: A STAGE OF MADNESS AND BLOODTHIRST

真夜中のX儀典

DANGER COMES MIKUNI'S WAY?!

...NO.

HE CAN HANDLE HIMSELF.

CAPTURE HIM! QUICKLY!

THERE!

STORY / YAMAGUCHI MIKOTO

ART / BAREISHO

...UGH.

HE'S NOT OUT COLD?!

[sfx]: Grab!

AHH!

!?

[sfx]: PUNCH!

[sfx]: Snag!

[sfx]: Thump

[sfx]: Bam!

HIM!
SEIZE

HAH!

[sfx]: Crush!

[sfx]: Nervous

オロオロ

OTHER THAN THE SIX INDIVIDUALS WHO ANSWERED THE QUESTION CORRECTLY...

EVERYONE HERE IS A DETECTIVE.

WHAT A SHAME.

DO YOU HONESTLY BELIEVE WE THE POLICE WOULD PLACE COMMON CIVILIANS IN THIS DANGEROUS A SITUATION?

FURTHER-MORE, BOTH PEOPLE STANDING ON-STAGE ...

ARE SKILLED AT SELF-DEFENSE.

...NO.

CULPRIT—

IT'S TIME TO PAY THE PIPER, X.

Ugh...

Ugh.

holder,
süßer Knabe,
(my dear sweet child,)

Schlafe, schlafe,
(Sleep, sleep,)

leise wiegt dich deiner
Mutter Hand...
(Softly rocked by your mother's hand)

TH-THIS SONG, IT'S...

PERHAPS YOU WILL BE THE ONES PAYING THE PIPER, NOT I.

WH...

WHY?

[sfx]: Slump

INTO WHAT WAS SUCH AN OBVIOUS TRAP?

"WHY"?

THE BETTER QUESTION WOULD BE: WHAT POSSESSED YOU TO EXPECT ME TO WALTZ UNPREPARED...

WHILE MY VICTIMS ARE ASLEEP, PARALYZED,

I CAN LAY ON THEM HYPNOTIC SUGGES-TIONS.

I BELIEVE I TOLD YOU BEFORE HOW EXEMPLARY A CROSS POWER THIS BODY BOASTS.

A LULLABY THAT PUTS ITS LISTENERS TO SLEEP IS NOT THE HALF OF IT.

...UGH.

SH-SHE USED HYPNOSIS?!

HOWEVER, ALLOWING ME MYSELF TO PURLOIN THE MICROPHONE?

USING THE LOUD VOLUME TO PREVENT ME FROM SINGING? INGENIOUS.

NEVERTHE-LESS, I MUST COMMEND YOU ON HAVING SCROUNGED TOGETHER SUCH AN INTERESTING PLAN.

TWO HOURS FROM NOW, GO UP ONTO THE STAGE AND ATTACK.

THE INDIVIDUALS ARE PARALYZED, OF COURSE. THAT DOES SEVERELY LIMIT THE BREADTH OF THE ORDERS I CAN GIVE.

A DREADFUL MISTAKE THAT HAS RENDERED ME INVINCIBLE.

GOOD NIGHT...

Schlafe, schlafe, holder, süßer Knabe,
(Sleep, sleep, my dear sweet child,)

leise wiegt dich aeiner Mutter Hand...
(Softly rocked by your mother's hand)

I COULD WAIT. I AM CONFIDENT HE WOULD NOT FAIL TO JOIN US.

SACHI IS STILL YET TO MAKE HIS ARRIVAL, IT WOULD SEEM.

SO THEN. WHAT SHALL I DO NOW?

...THAT SAID, SIMPLY WAITING HERE SOUNDS SO TERRIBLY DULL.

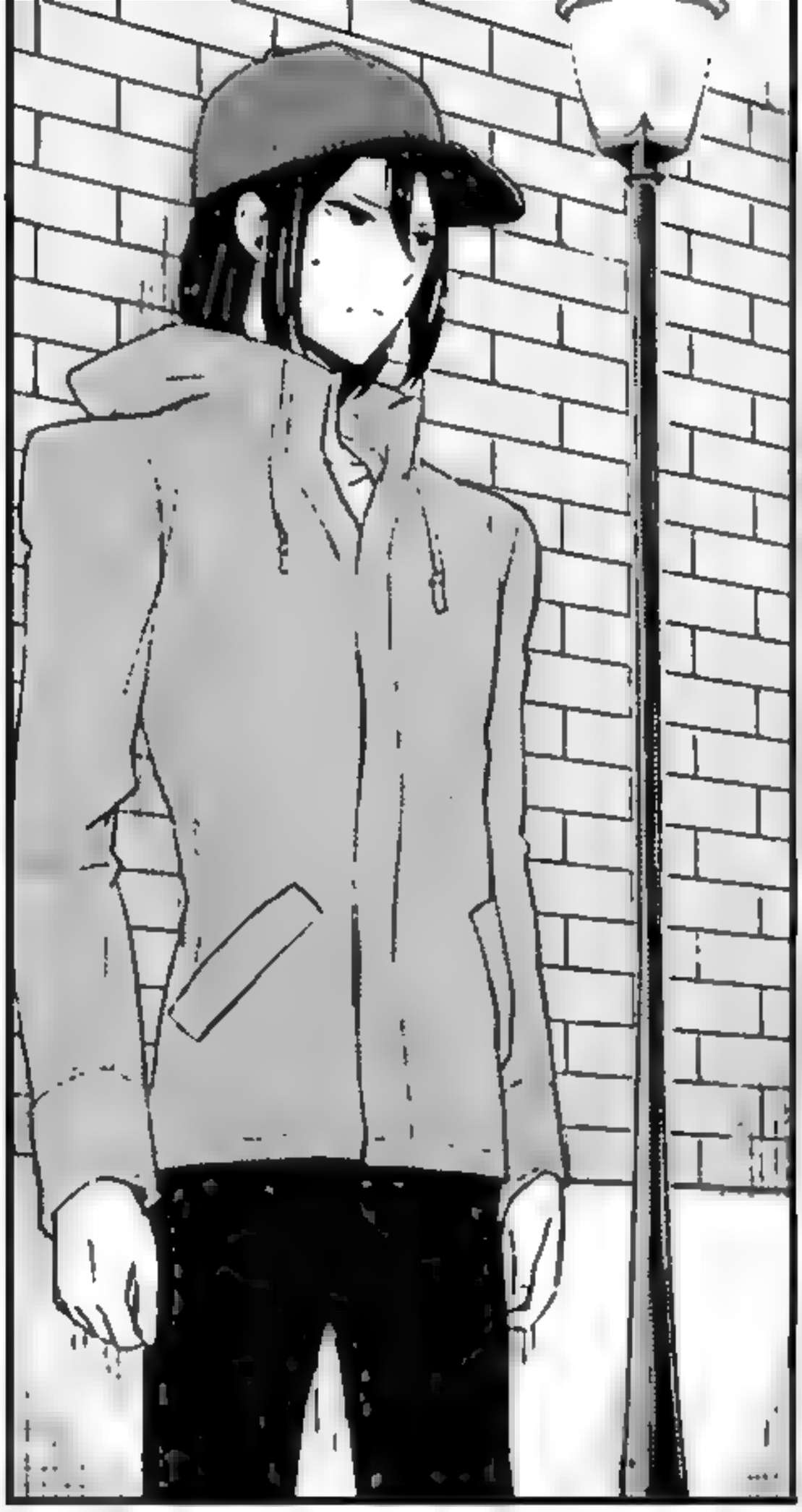
AFTER ALL, HE CONSIDERS MY SINS...

I AM SURE THE GOOD DETECTIVE BROUGHT ONE OF THOSE WITH HIM.

HMM.

OH, YES. ♡

TO BE SOMETHING HE MUST HANDLE HIMSELF.



KEIJUKUKO-48

[sfx] Dash!
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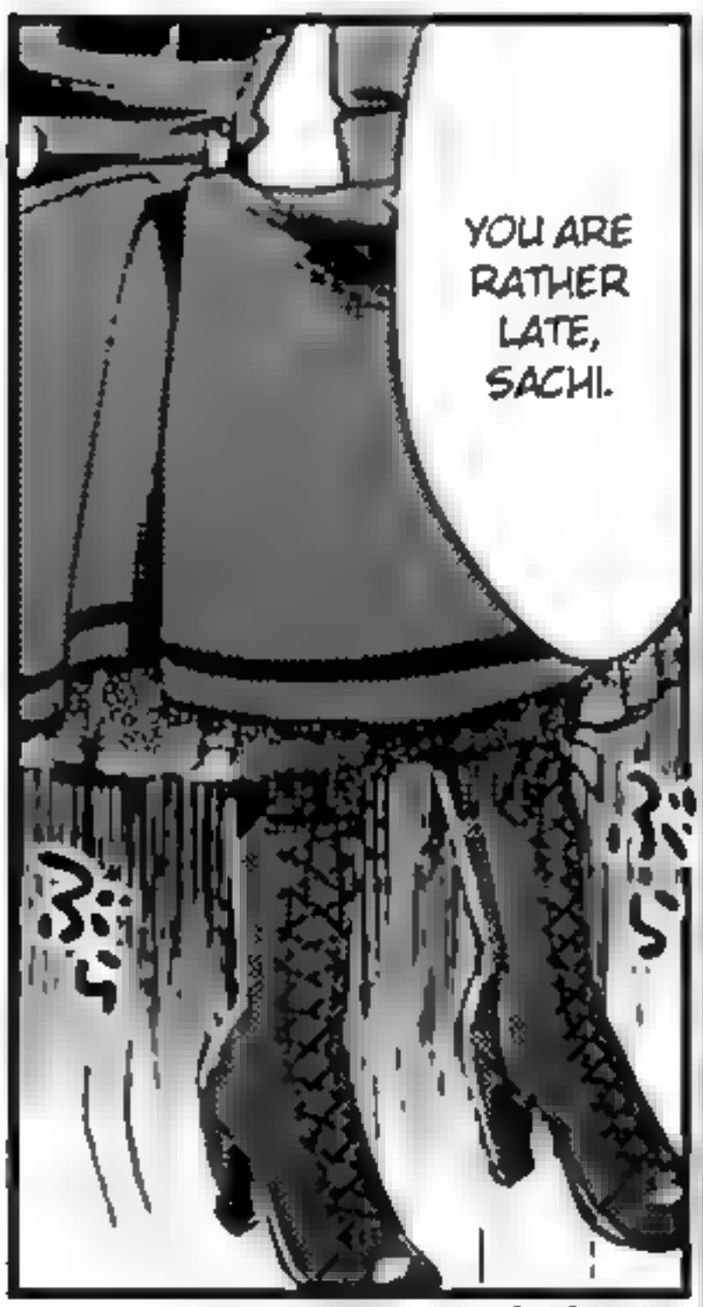
YOU ARE RATHER LATE, SACHI.
[sfx] Swing

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248

I GREW SICK OF WAITING.

THAT YOU MUST HAVE REALIZED THE IDENTITY OF MY TRUE BODY.

YOUR PRESENCE HERE WOULD SUGGEST ...

.....

DO RELAX. NONE OF THE SOULS HERE HAVE YET BEEN PLUCKED FROM THEIR BODIES.

...YEAH. OF COURSE I'VE FIGURED IT OUT.

YOU...

ARE MY OTHER HALF.

I RAN INTO ONE MAJOR PROBLEM:

THROUGH MY ARREST, THROUGH MEETING YOU, THROUGH ALL THE INFORMATION I'VE LEARNED,

THERE WERE TOO MANY GAPS IN MY MEMORIES.

AT FIRST, I WAS SHOCKED BY MY OWN INSENSITIVITY.

BUT THAT WASN'T IT.

OUR HOUSE WASN'T THAT LARGE. HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN BLIND TO SO MUCH OF WHAT WENT ON WITHIN IT?

WHAT HAPPENED ON THE DAY OF THE CRIME?

BUT WHY WAS THERE SO MUCH ABOUT THE KIRISHIMA FAMILY THAT I HEARD FROM THE POLICE AND LAWYERS THAT I DIDN'T KNOW?

WHY DIDN'T I KNOW ABOUT THE SCAR ON AI'S BODY? THOSE TWO WERE NO SURPRISE.

THE AWFUL THINGS THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE IN THE KIRISHIMA HOUSE.

I HAD KNOWN...

IT IS FINE, SACHI.

I KEPT HER SAFE.

I'M SORRY, AI.

I SHOULD'VE SAVED YOU.

A CARD FOLDED IN HALF

SOMEONE MUST HAVE TAUGHT YOU THAT METHOD

LET'S PUT AN END TO THIS.

I CAN'T LET YOU STAIN MY SISTER'S HANDS WITH ANY MORE BLOOD.

.....

THIS'LL STOP YOU FROM SINGING.

YOU'RE COMING BACK, X.

NOW...

[sfx] Bang!

NO, NOT NEARLY.

FOR YOU SEE...

...YOU STILL WANT TO KEEP GOING?

...HAVEN'T YOU... HAD ENOUGH?

AND SO I REALIZED...

I HAVE TOUCHED UPON INNUMERABLE SPIRITS, AND THEIR INNUMERABLE SUPPRESSED DESIRES.

THROUGH ALL THE INNUMERABLE BODIES I HAVE TAKEN,

...HUMANS RESTRAIN THEMSELVES FAR TOO MUCH.

WAS TO FREE THEM IN WAYS THEY THEMSELVES COULD NOT.

AND THAT MY RAISON D'ÊTRE...

INTRIGUINGLY,

EVEN BEINGS SUCH AS I, ONCE BORN INTO THIS WORLD, LONG FOR A REASON TO EXIST.

Y-YOU THINK THAT'S YOUR PURPOSE?

...YOU'RE NUTS.

AND THAT REASON'S TO HURT PEOPLE?

[sfx]: Roll

ゴロッ

WITH YOU GONE, I WILL OBTAIN FREE-DOM IN THE TRUEST SENSE.

[sfx]: Smile

DO NOT WORRY.

I WILL MAKE SURE TO KEEP THIS BODY SAFE.

[sfx]: Press

ゴッ...

WITH THAT, SACHI, I BID YOU ADIEU.

[sfx]: Click

FAREWELL, MY OTHER HALF.

WHAT ELSE WOULD I BE?

ガッ

I'M YOUR RAW INSANITY, GIVEN LIFE!

[sfx]: Yank

10

[sfx]: Bang!

Y-

YOU'RE ...

Huff

Huff

RIGHT... MY LOVE LULLABY PROVED INEFFECTIVE AGAINST THAT BODY.

[sfx]: Yank

UP UNTIL THE VERY END, WE DEBATED WHO WOULD STAND UPON THE STAGE...

AND THEN I ENTERED THIS BODY!

A TRUE IDOL, SHE QUICKLY PICKED UP SELF-DEFENSE. THANK GOOD-NESS FOR THAT.

BUT ONCE WE REALIZED THIS BODY WOULD BE OUR TRUMP CARD, I HAD MIKUNI-SAN ENTER MY BODY.

ALL SO THAT I COULD KEEP MY PROMISE TO GRANDPA.

LOWER YOUR BODY AND PULL MY ARM TOWARDS YOU.

THIS ISN'T MUCH DIFFERENT FROM DANCING.

ON SUSPICION OF THE MURDER OF THE KIRISHIMA FAMILY, ALONG WITH THE MURDER OF AN'NO SHIN'ICHI-ROU,

X... NO.

KIRISHIMA SACHI, YOU ARE UNDER ARREST!

FINALLY, X HAS BEEN ARRESTED!

次号 9月号 7月27日(水)発売 につづく!